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Army signs 100th partner in Partnership for Youth Success

FORT KNOX, KY – The U.S. Army signed its 100th partner in the Partnership for Youth Success, the Louisville Metro Police Department, during a ceremony in Louisville at the end of May.

USAREC Commanding General Maj. Gen. Michael D. Rochelle, Louisville Mayor Jerry E. Abramson, Louisville Metro Police Chief Robert C. White and Indianapolis Recruiting Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Jeffrey P. Lee signed a ceremonial Memorandum of Agreement to mark the milestone.

“PaYS is a unique program designed to assist our Soldiers as they transition back into civilian life while providing our nations’ employers with a pool of very highly skilled, motivated and responsible candidates from which they may fill their own personnel needs,” Lt. Col. Lee said in announcing the partnership.

There are many parallels between the Louisville Metro Police Department and the United States Army, he said.

“Both protect and serve the people of our communities for the nation.”

In his remarks, Abramson said most managers like to hire people with a military background.

“The reason is pretty simple,” he explained. “Soldiers are expertly trained to follow orders and to complete missions.”

He added that former Soldiers follow through until the work is complete, and they exhibit the leadership skills that make other employees better workers.

“In fact, 73 of our employees have recently served tours of duty in Iraq.”

“The partnership program provides strategic opportunities for any PaYS partner to reach out and touch magnificent young men and women who have all the values that our Soldiers emulate and represent,” said Rochelle.

More than 29,000 active Army Soldiers and 2,000 Army Reserve Soldiers have enlisted with the PaYS option since the program began in 1999. The Army has more than 200,000 jobs available for Regular Army Soldiers, and 23,000 jobs for Reserve Soldiers, and those numbers are continuously increasing.

“The number and variety of partners continues to grow, as well as the number of Soldiers including PaYS as part of their enlistment incentive package,” said PaYS Program Manager Robert A. Qualls.

“PaYS is another tool in the recruiters’ toolbox to discuss ways Soldiers can take advantage of Army enlistment opportunities to create their own future,” Qualls said. “Some jobs are open only to specific Military Occupational Specialties, but a number of PaYS partners have all types of jobs open to Soldiers regardless of training.”

The list of PaYS employer partners – 106 to date – includes law enforcement agencies and major corporations from around the country such as Harley Davidson, Dell and Goodyear. The state of Wisconsin recently became the first state government to become a PaYS partner. As part of the enlistment process, the recruit signs a statement of intent to work for the PaYS partner upon completion of his or her term of service. This statement becomes part of the Soldier’s official military personnel file. Near the end of their enlistments, Soldiers will interview with the partner for a specific job at a specific location.

White was excited about the police department’s involvement in the partnership.

“We really feel very proud to be part of this opportunity,” he said. “The service that these men and women have provided our country will be duplicated in service to our community.”